

ARE MEN STRONGER THAN GOD?

Those who believe the Bible believe that God is all powerful. “Is anything too hard for Jehovah?” (Gen. 18:14) anticipates a negative answer. Scripture refers to God as “Almighty” 59 times. Paul referred to “...the exceeding greatness of his power” (Eph. 1:19). Truly, the Bible abounds with claims of God’s omnipotence.

Paradoxically, in spite of these claims the Bible also reveals that, in at least one respect, **human beings are more powerful than God**. This statement is not intended to shock and it certainly does not come from a blasphemous or humanistic heart. Let us explore the background of this claim.

John Calvin, the 16th century reformer, perverted the Biblical doctrine of God’s omnipotence into his doctrine of the sovereignty of God. To Calvinists, *the sovereignty of God* means the absolute and unqualified power of God through which **He forces His arbitrary, random will upon mankind**. This warped view of God’s omnipotence fuels the entire Calvinistic engine. Because of God’s “Sovereignty,” they aver that He:

- Brings every baby into the world **totally depraved** in sin and incapable even in adulthood of a pure thought or a good deed apart from a supernatural act of the Holy Spirit
- **Unconditionally elected** (i.e., determined, apart from any response of faith or obedience on their part) before the world began (i.e., predestined) every individual, who would be saved and who would be damned
- Sent Christ, not to die for all sinners, but only for that **limited** number whom God had already arbitrarily and unconditionally elected to salvation

- Imposes His **irresistible grace** upon those He has elected (i.e., they cannot be damned even if they should so choose)
- Will see that they **persevere** unto eternal salvation because He will not allow them to be lost, regardless of the degree of their faithfulness (i.e., once they are saved they cannot be lost)

Calvin and his millions of disciples have it all wrong regarding God's sovereignty. Their theology deprives us of our free will, which God gave us from the beginning. God **allowed** Adam and Eve to **choose** to obey or disobey Him (Gen. 2:17) with the awful consequence of death if they disobeyed. God's gift of man's free will is a limitation He has imposed upon Himself. He gives every accountable human being the "power" to say "No" to His grace and salvation, so in this sense God empowers men to be "stronger" than He is. What glory would redound to God if we were all robots with no choice but to serve Him?

Calvin's view of God's Sovereignty makes Him a capricious ogre and us senseless puppets. Free will is precious, but woe unto those who wrongly exercise it and rebel against their Creator.

—Dub McClish

Denton, TX